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## Araluen Arts Centre Alice Springs

### Introduction

The Araluen Arts Centre was chosen as the fifth and final iconic building in Alice Springs for a large-scale solar installation as part of the Alice Solar City programme. Launched in 2008, the \$37million programme was federally funded and designed to explore solar power technologies and new approaches to energy supply and pricing.

The Araluen Arts Centre solar installation marks the second Iconic Project in Alice Solar City for Ingenero. The first was the 235kW solar farm at Alice Springs Airport utilizing cutting edge concentrated photovoltaic modules.

### Opportunity

In April 2012, Ingenero was selected to install the Araluen Arts Centre solar system, which was designed by CAT Projects. The

goal was to create a demonstration of solar technology that combined energy efficiency and striking aesthetics.

The north-facing Arts Centre building has ample roof surfaces and an ideal orientation for solar, allowing CAT Projects and Ingenero to maximize the size and output of the final installation.

### Solution

The result is a striking 162kW solar array covering five rooftops with jet-black monocrystalline solar modules. The installation is comprised of 11 SMA inverters and 648 Q.CELLS solar modules that are designed and tested for the harsh conditions of the Australian outback.

Contrasting with the white roof surfaces, the black solar panels effectively cover 94% of the five individual rooftops used for



the installation. Ingenero CEO Steve McRae acknowledged the contribution of the Northern Territory Government and local contractors to the iconic solar installation.

“The use of the high contrast black solar panels on the white Araluen Arts Centre roof makes this solar installation a beautiful and highly visible demonstration of monocrystalline photovoltaic technology,” Mr McRae said.

### Outcome

The Araluen Arts Centre solar installation was completed in November 2012 and will generate approximately 302 megawatt hours of electricity per year, which is equivalent to powering around 35 Alice Springs homes. It is expected to save an estimated 203 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per year and will complement the other energy efficiency measures adopted by the Arts Centre.

Visitors to the Araluen Arts Centre can learn more about the solar system and view real-time power generation data on display in the foyer.

**Read more about this project and others**  
[www.ingenero.com.au/large-scale-solar](http://www.ingenero.com.au/large-scale-solar)



*The high contrast installation is clearly visible from the air.*

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